

Night 22

Highlights from Surah Fussilat The name of this Surah is Fussilat (the expounded) because the Qur'an is explained in a simple way for everyone to understand. It was revealed during the early stages of da'wah in Makkah. According to authentic Ahadith, it was revealed after Hamzah^{RA} embraced Islam but before Umar^{RA} did. The people of the Quraish were very upset at the growing numbers of Muslims. 'Utbah bin Rabi'ah (Fathe-in-law of Abu Sufian) was sent to counsel the Prophet^{SAW}. He offered wealth to make him the richest man among them, proposed to accept him as their master, and make him their king if he wished. The Prophet^{SAW} in reply: recited this very Surah, prostrated at Verse 38, and raised his head and said: "This was my reply, now you may act as you please." Then 'Utbah went to the chiefs of Quraish and said: "By God! I have heard something the like of which I had never heard before. By God, it's neither poetry, nor sorcery, nor magic. O chiefs of the Quraish, listen to what I say and leave this man to himself. I think what he recites is going to have its effect. If the other Arabs overcome him, you will be saved from raising your hand against your brother. But if he overcame Arabia, his sovereignty would be your sovereignty and his honor your honor." Then, the disbelievers gave a clear message to the Prophet^{SAW}: You may continue the mission, and we will oppose as hard to frustrate it. They started raising doubts about the Qur'an and the Messenger^{SAW}. The Surah responded to their opposition and warned them of severe punishment if they continued to persist.

Highlights from Surah Ash-Shura It's called Shura as a lesson from Allah^{SWT} to the Muslims to build their decisions based on Shura (consultation). It was revealed consecutively after Surah Fussilat, and is like a sequel to it. The Surah concludes that the Prophet^{SAW} was neither aware of the Book nor of the True Path until he was made a messenger at age 40. This in itself is a proof that he is a true messenger.

Highlights from Surah Az-Zukhruf This Makki Surah's name is derived from the word Zukhrufan (Gold Adornment), which occurs in verse 33. It symbolizes that the ornaments of this world are temporary and deceiving. They are given to both good and bad people, but the real gold adornments are reserved for the people of Paradise. This Surah criticizes and exposes the faults of the Quraish and common Arab creeds, their superstition and ignorance. The idea is to invite them to leave the evil and embrace the Truth.

Highlights from Surah Ad-Dukhan The Surah is named for the word Ad-Dukhan (the Smoke), which occurs in verse 10. When Pagans of Makkah refused the Qur'an and the Prophet^{SAW}'s message, a famine struck them and smoke was sent over them. The smoke was so thick that it covered the sky. They could not help each other, but at the request of the Prophet^{SAW}, Allah^{SWT} forgave them, moved the smoke and sent rain. The Pagans of Makkah are reminded of the story of Fir'aun and Musa^{AS}. How Allah^{SWT} helped them and saved them from Fir'aun. How He gave them better life, but they became disobedient and killed their prophets. Allah^{SWT} put His curse on them.